

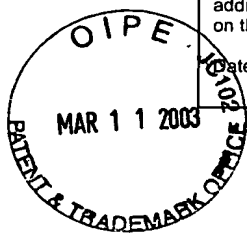
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Dated: March 11, 2003

Signature:

Monica Thomas
(Monica Thomas)

Docket No.: HO-P01899US2
(PATENT)



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Huda Y. Zoghbi

Application No.: 09/585,645

Filed: June 1, 2000

Group Art Unit: 1633

Examiner: Celine X. Qian

For: COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS FOR THE
THERAPEUTIC USE OF AN ATONAL-
ASSOCIATED SEQUENCE FOR DEAFNESS,
OSTEOARTHRITIS AND ABNORMAL CELL
PROLIFERATION

#27/F
Huda
3/12/03

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AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.114

Box RCE

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

This submission is in response to the Office Action dated November 25, 2002 (Paper No. 19), finally rejecting claims 40-48, 50, 112-119, 121 and 123 and is further in response to the Advisory Action dated February 11, 2003 maintaining the rejection. Applicants file herewith a Request for Continued Examination and Petition for One Month Extension of Time. Please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims

40. (Currently Amended) A method of generating hair cells for an animal, comprising delivering directly to an inner ear a therapeutically effective amount of an atonal-associated nucleic acid sequence to a cell of said animal, wherein hair cells develop in the ear of said animal and wherein said atonal-associated nucleic acid sequence encodes a polypeptide that has hair cell generating activity, [and] has at least about 80% identity to SEQ ID NO:58, and comprises at least about 80% identity to SEQ ID NO:70, wherein upon said delivering step said hair cell is generated.